



Somalia Emergency and Livelihood Intervention Program (SELIP)



Third Quarter Report: January 1 – March 31, 2016

PROJECT SUMMARY

<u>Award: AID-OFDA-G-15-00226</u>	
<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Aug 1, 2015</u>
<u>End Date</u>	<u>July 31, 2016</u>
<u>Report Date</u>	<u>April 30, 2016</u>
<u>Total Award</u>	<u>\$2,800,000</u>

ACRONYMS

AWD	Acute Watery Diarrhea
CfW	Cash for Work

CBHW	Community-Based Health Workers
ERMS	Economic Recovery Market System
HH	Households
IEC	Information Education and Communication
JF	Juba Foundation
NTD	Neglected Tropical Diseases
ORS	Oral Rehydration Solution
SELIP	Somalia Emergency and Livelihood Intervention
RIO	Rebuild Initiative Organization
SODIS	Solar Water Disinfection
SOWLEPA	South Western Livestock Professional association
VDC	Village Development Committee
VSC	Village Select Committee
NTD	Neglected Tropical Diseases
UNICEF	United Nation Children's Fund
OCHA	Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of activities of Somalia Emergency Livelihood Intervention Project (SELIP) implemented during the period January – March, 2016. The project seeks to contribute to restoration of sustainable livelihoods for the targeted communities in Banadir,

Lower Juba, Lower/Middle Shabelle, Galmudug and Gedo regions of Somalia, through rehabilitation of community infrastructure and capacity building.

Mercy Corps, together with its implementing partners, Jubba Foundation (JF) and Rebuild Initiative Organization (RIO), continued implementation of the project activities across the target areas. The period saw completion of most of the project activities. The period however witnessed the highest level of effects of drought throughout the project regions and other parts of Somalia. The drought experienced also affected the effectiveness of the agricultural project activities, especially the irrigation canals that targeted water from the River Shabelle, and this work was not possible because sections of the river dried up.

Rehabilitation of community infrastructure continued, including the irrigation canals, culverts and ditches, rehabilitation access roads and construction of latrines as cash for work (CfW) schemes while at the same time providing opportunities for temporary employment to the poor and vulnerable households. A total of 6,203 households benefited from temporary employment during the period, earning a total of US\$719,720 and benefiting 37,218 people. During the same period, six vocational skills trainings on tailoring were completed for 48 female IDP beneficiaries drawn from Hidig IDP camp in Dharkenley district; Mukaal IDP camp in Daynile district of Banadir region; Midnimo and Gaas IDP camps in Galkayu district of Mudug region; and Tawakal 1 and Wamo 2 IDP camps in Kismayu district of Lower Juba region. A total of 12 cooperative groups were formed from the trained women and then supported with start-up materials and cash grant.

Under the WASH sector, the interventions implemented during the period included construction of 60 single stance pit latrines, installation of 30 hand-wash facilities, nine hygiene promotion forums conducted reaching approximately 1,517HHs, and rehabilitation of a water supply system (a water kiosk, storage tank and water pipeline system) and four shallow wells.

Further, Mercy Corps through its sub-grant partner, Rebuild Initiative Organization trained community-based animal health workers (CAHWs) in Gedo region, who in turn began to provide both curative and preventive services for livestock in order to improve livestock productivity and creating greatest market possible value in the region.

The period experienced one of the worst drought¹ seasons affecting productivity of the project activities. The drought led to drying up of Shabelle River, which has been the pillar of economic mainstay of the populations the Central regions of Somalia. Due to the scarcity of water in the river, it was not possible for the project to assess the effects of the project activities, especially for the irrigation canals rehabilitated since they depend on the gradient and depth of the river to supply water to the farms nearby. There was also reported significant degradation of pasture and depressed water conditions have been reported in most parts of the country. Temporary water sources/catchment in traditional grazing areas were mostly depleted compelling pastoralists to move towards more permanent water sources such as boreholes and rivers.

2. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

¹ <http://www.fsnau.org/in-focus/somalia-continues-face-large-scale-food-insecurity-compounded-poor-rainfall-and-drought>

Despite the drought situation across the country, including the project target areas during the period of reporting, Mercy Corps continued to implement the project activities, with participants involved in temporary employment while at the same time developing community agricultural and productive assets. There was continued rehabilitation of community infrastructures and the implementation of planned WASH activities majorly through the cash for work (CfW). Hygiene promotion activities also went on as planned during the period with the participants being involved in participatory methodologies to increase their knowledge of safe hygiene practices. Vocational skills training for the vulnerable IDP women also went on during the period and support was provided to establish cooperatives and provide business start-up kits. Training of the community animal health workers and support went on well with participants completing the training.

Sector 1: Economic Recovery and Market Systems

Sub-Sector 1.1. Market System Rehabilitation

The project facilitated successful completion of rehabilitation of: 24 irrigation canals in 23 villages in Jowhar, Bal'ad Afgoye, Qoryoley, Marka, Dolow and Luuq districts; 14 river broken sites in nine villages in Bal'ad, Jowhar, Qoryoley, Marka and Dolow districts; 16 irrigation ditches in 11 villages in Jowhar, Marka, Dolow and Luuq districts; 15 culverts in 11 villages in Jowhar, Marka, Dolow and Luuq districts; four feeder roads in four villages in Marka, Baraawe, Dolow and Luuq districts; and a market center in Qoryoley district.

Sub Sector 1.2 Temporary Employment

The CfW interventions were applied to improve economic market systems and sanitation through community infrastructure rehabilitation and construction of latrines, while at the same time creating short-term employment for the vulnerable community members in the target districts. The identified CfW community infrastructures aimed at improving the food security and economic situation in the rural sections of the target communities.

During the reporting period, a total of 6,203 HH individuals were engaged to participate in the CfW activities benefiting a total of 37,218 individuals through rehabilitation and construction of community structures which included irrigation canals, irrigation ditches, culverts, river embankments, market centers, feeder road clearance, shallow wells, and construction of pit latrines. The beneficiaries were selected by Village Relief Committees (VRC) and verified by Mercy Corps based on standard selection criteria. The VRC also participated in the identification of the CfW schemes during the technical assessment to inform selection of ideal plans for CfW activities.

A total of \$719,720 was transferred to the project cash for work beneficiaries consisting of 1,977 women and 4,226 men in rehabilitation of the community infrastructures. With the wages earned from the CfW activities, beneficiaries' purchasing power were enhanced, improving HH food security, and further creating economic vibrancy by injecting cash into the local markets, as confirmed through feedback sessions held with selected beneficiaries.

Photos of Some of the Rehabilitated Community Infrastructure



An irrigation canal in Jambaluul Village under rehabilitation, Afgooye district – Lower Shabelle



Completed rehabilitation of An irrigation canal in Jambaluul Village, Afgooye district – Lower Shabelle

Sub-Sector 1.3: New Livelihoods Development

During the reporting period, six vocational skill trainings on tailoring were completed for 48 female IDP beneficiaries drawn from Hidig IDP Camp in Dharkenley district and Mukaal IDP camp in Daynile district of Banadir region; Midnimo and Gaas IDP camps in Galkayu district of Mudug region; and, Tawakal 1 and Wamo 2 IDP camps in Kismayu district of Lower Juba region. The beneficiaries were jointly selected by the IDP camp selection committees and Mercy Corps representatives. The skill trainings were aimed at supporting vulnerable IDPs to initiate small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) to strengthen their economic capacity. Each training took six weeks with the participants attending both morning and evening sessions and successfully completed the planned curriculum. Each of the beneficiary trainees also received transport reimbursement of \$10 on a weekly basis for the six weeks.

After the training, 12 cooperative groups were formed consisting of four female members each and supported with a complete start-up kit including sewing machines and other materials and were further supported with start-up cash grants after signing an MOU between Mercy Corps and the established cooperative groups. The start-up materials were given as one-off provisions, while the start-up cash grants were paid in two installments. Four of the 12 cooperative groups, received the first and second installments of the start-up cash grants; while the other eight cooperative groups will receive their grants in the first week of April 2016.

Sector 2: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The WASH interventions implemented during the period included construction of 60 single stance pit latrines, installation of 30 hand-wash facilities, nine hygiene promotion forums conducted; rehabilitation of a water supply system (a water kiosk, an storage tank and water pipeline system) and four shallow wells.

Sub-sector 2.1 Sanitation Infrastructure

Mercy Corps facilitated a total construction of 60 single stance pit latrines in 4 IDP camps, namely Bulo-Jawan and El-Gaab IDP Camps in Galkayu district of Mudug region, where each IDP camp received support in construction of 20 single stance pit latrines; Rabi-Tuuk IDP Camp in Daynile district and Boqol-Soon IDP Camp in Dharkenley district, where each IDP Camp received the construction of 10 single stance pit latrines. Cash for Work (CfW) was used as strategy to have the beneficiaries construct the latrines, while at the same time improving the beneficiaries' HH food security. A total of 180 (68 F) laborers both skilled and unskilled were involved in the construction of the 60 single stance pit latrines for a period of two days. Each skilled laborer, received \$14 per day while those unskilled laborers were each paid \$8 per day. A single stance pit latrine structure is composed of timber of different sizes, iron sheets, cement, gravel and sand. On completion, the latrines were handed over to the IDP camp committees, overall benefiting 300 HHs. The IDPs commonly share the latrines within the settlements though still unmet the minimum sphere standards.

Sub Sector 2.2 Hygiene Promotion

During the reporting period, Mercy Corps continued to initiate good hygiene practices through hygiene promotion forums, trainings, and campaigns to achieve the desired change in hygiene and behavior. A total of nine hygiene promotion forums were conducted by Mercy Corps and its local partners (Juba Foundation and RIO). A total of 42 Hygiene Promotion groups were trained on using key hygiene promotion messages to sensitize their respective communities. The hygiene promoters also used IEC materials with hygiene messages and were further equipped with hand-held mega-phones to enhance their audibility to reach many audiences. The promoters conducted the sessions in an interactive manner to ensure that the participants related with the situational context.

As standard practice, Mercy Corps emphasized utilization of a combination of various strategies for hygiene promotion, improved sanitation, and waste disposal management that remained as major challenges in all major urban centers, especially in the expanding IDP settlements in Mogadishu, Galkayo and Kismayo. Mercy Corps further enhanced hygiene promotion through installation of 30 hand-washing facilities in the IDP camps in Banadir, Kismayu and Galkayo where the 60 single stance pit latrines were constructed, with each hand-wash facility being placed between two pit latrines to be used among the users of the two pit latrines; and the engagement of trained hygiene promoters as change agents to encourage hand-washing promotion by these communities. It is intended that the hand-wash facilities regularly be filled with water by among the users with an oversight of the WASH committee in each camp. The trained hygiene promotion groups conducted hygiene promotion sessions within the IDP settlements and host communities reaching approximately 1,570 HHs.

Sub-sector 2.3 Water Supply and Infrastructure Rehabilitation

Mercy Corps facilitated the rehabilitation of a water point, consisting of a water kiosk with storage tank and water pipeline system in Boqol-Soon IDP camp in Dharkenley district of Banadir region; the rehabilitation of four shallow wells in Hawl-Wadaag and Dayah villages in Barawe district, Gay-Warow village in Merka district, and Taleh village in Qoryoley district of Lower Shabelle region. These activities were done through the use of cash for work. A total of 64 cash for work beneficiaries were engaged in these activities, and paid \$5 per day for different

activity periods, depending on the magnitude and time required by each specific activity. The rehabilitated shallow wells and the water points are estimated to benefit approximately 4,937 people to enable them access to safe water for domestic consumption.

Sector 3: Agriculture and Food Security

The second phase of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) training was conducted and a total of 40 (33 male and 7 female) participants from five districts (Luuq, Dolow, Garbaharey, Elwaq and Beledxawa) of Gedo completed the training. The training was facilitated by RIO's Animal Production Specialist and co-trained by the South-West Livestock Professional Association (SOWELPA) staff. The training covered a range of topics such as livestock handling, record keeping, and drug administration. The training also involved practical sessions where the participants were also taken through topics that touched on common animal diseases and demonstration of drug administration. At the end of the training, the participants were provided with start-up kits with a total distribution of 40 veterinary kits. The trained CAHWs managed to provide treatment to 72,800 livestock and this high number is attributed to the effects of the dry season characterized by increased disease prevalence which benefited 24,000 HHs.

4. Challenges and Recommendations

- The current drought has significantly affected the project activities among the target populations especially for the rehabilitated irrigation canals that depend on the high depth of the river to provide water for irrigation. This was not possible since it was reported that the Shabelle River dried up, further deteriorating food security and livelihoods of already vulnerable populations in South Central Somalia.
- Slow change in the adoption of alternative livelihood options by the pastoralist communities in the face of recurring drought that has limited livestock production. There is a need to slowly introduce other alternative sources of livelihood which are suitable to the various project regions.
- The poor road infrastructure linking between Mogadishu and the program targeted areas in Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle and Galmudug regions causes many hours of travel resulting in unnecessary delays and fatigue for program staff.

5. Lessons Learned

- There is a need for communities acquiring early warning information well in advance on the effect of drought and floods on River Shabelle in Middle and Lower Shabelle regions helped many farmers to mitigate by protecting their assets like water pumps and identifying sites for river embankment construction at the probable river breakage sites.
- The use of already existing community structures and capacities facilitated smooth implementation of project works in the communities e.g. the existing VSC and the skilled laborers for undertaking various assignments.
- Observing seasonality in activity planning and implementation facilitates the responsiveness of the project work for the community.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation activities are embedded into the program activities and the staff constantly monitor the progress on a regular basis. As a procedure, staff visiting activity sites documented the experiences in activity monitoring reports (AMRs), with recommendations

shared and discussed for action. This helps in benchmarking to inform performance measurement of the project. Further, the program team conducted field and need assessments before starting any activity in each locality to avoid duplication of roles and responses with other humanitarian actors. In an effort of ensuring high quality CfW program activities, targeted literate youth are employed as supervisors through CfW to support the daily monitoring of activities. This is not only ensuring quality but will also result in positive engagement of youth and women for the length of assignment.

7. Coordination

The program team closely coordinated with other humanitarian actors in the program implementation areas and the local administrations in all villages before undertaking activities. Project plans and outcome were always shared with food security, WASH and protection clusters. The project team members also participated in sector and cluster meetings, partner workshops, and cluster reporting to ensure quality delivery of work regarding humanitarian interventions carried out by all cluster members. These enhanced synergy among partners and supported lesson learning processes.